

## Education for Change: Equality at Maryland

EXCELLENCE AND ENJOYMENT for the children is prevalent throughout the curriculum. Schools from across Newham and London come to visit Maryland as it is a BEACON for an extra-ordinary curriculum that benefits our community and make us STAND OUT.

# Maryland Primary School Children's Art Exhibition

**Newham Students  
Honouring Black Newham Heroes  
Celebrating Black British Artists**

## Ambition, Achievement, Inspiration

**Mon 18th Oct - Fri 22nd Oct  
2pm - 6pm**  
**Maryland Primary School**  
Gurney Road,  
Stratford,  
E15 1SL  
Tel: 0208 534 8135

To access exhibition enter  
through the school's main office  
and sign in




## YEAR OF THE YOUNG PERSON

### Pupils explore Black History Month themes through art

**A primary school has been exploring and identifying the contributions made by black, African and Caribbean communities through art activities.**

The activities of Maryland Primary School are part of Black History Month (BHM), in October, which was introduced in the UK in 1987 as a time dedicated to celebrating and educating people about black history and culture.

Maryland Primary School headteacher Lorna Jackson said: "There has never been a more important time for us all to challenge racism through conversations and curriculum."

Art and design leader and Year 2 teacher Sabina Chaudhary has written an art project called Art4Change for all early year settings in primary schools.

**ANDREW BROWN**  
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The cross-curricular project provides an opportunity for children to survey through in Year 6 to begin to have conversations to challenge racism.

A recent project at the school, Newham Heroes, is based around the council's BHM theme: ambition, achievement, inspiration.

It involves the whole school community creating art to celebrate the achievements of people in their area and other's lives and to inspire them.

When asked what BHM means to him, Year 2 pupil Adrian, six, said: "Treating each other with kindness and respect and not just at one time of the year."

He added: "We must be kind and

struggles and victories of people of colour and children will learn about the importance of representation, human rights and the significance of speaking up for their own and other's freedoms and liberties."

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A Maryland Primary School pupil with some artwork also created for the Newham Heroes exhibition. Photo: ANDREW BROWN

starting, we are all equal."

"It doesn't matter who you are, we must be kind."

Nine-year-old Laurin, who is in Year 4, said: "It is important to remember all the things black people have had to go through."

"My artwork shows a powerful people like the boxer Louis Armstrong."

"His pose shows how strong he is and I chose him because I want my artwork to show how powerful."

Year 2 pupil Dennis, 11, said: "Black history has been hidden for a long time."

"It's only fair that we all know" the exhibition, you can visit the school in Gurney Road from Wednesday to Friday October 18 to 22.

This comes during Newham Council's Year of the Young Person during 2021.

We have been asked by many visitors (the Mayor of Newham, Chair of Governors etc) to keep the Exhibition open for longer to give more opportunity for those who missed it to visit. This fits right in with the HT vision that BHM should not just be shut down once we reach November. The Exhibition will now close on 19th November. Smaller groups of children can use the displays for research.

The Mayor, Rokhsana Fiaz OBE, was overwhelmed at the quality of Maryland children's work, saying it was 'beautiful'. She has also requested if the council can purchase some of the artwork to be displayed in the atrium in the Docklands head office. As Miss Charlery said, the final decision will be for the pupils. You can see her comments, to the left in her tweet.

*'In awe of the Heroes Exhibition by pupils at @MarylandPrimary sponsored by @NewhamLondon to celebrate #BlackHistoryMonth. This is education at its best- art honouring Black history and celebrating the achievements of Black Newham heroes. Well done to everyone involved.'*

A screenshot of a tweet from Rokhsana Fiaz OBE (@rokhsanafiaz) on Twitter. The tweet is dated 22/10/2021 at 13:54 and was posted from an iPhone. The text of the tweet reads: "In awe of the Heroes Exhibition by pupils at @MarylandPrimary sponsored by us @NewhamLondon to celebrate #BlackHistoryMonth 🍌🍌🍌 This is education at its best - art honouring Black history and celebrating the achievements of Black Newham heroes. Well done to everyone involved." Below the text are two photographs. The top photo shows a group of children in yellow shirts and a few adults standing in front of a display. The bottom photo shows a group of five adults standing in front of a display. The tweet has 5 retweets and 18 likes. The background of the tweet is dark blue.

Monica Edwards, head of Community Engagement, had nominated Maryland for the grant to host the exhibition. She commented that it was *‘definitely value for money!’* We are so fortunate to have been chosen as the ONLY school in Newham, once again, to be funded to host an open house exhibition for the community and to showcase our talents. Many visitors have said they learned so much about local heroes, and that it isn't just an **exhibition**, but a **learning experience**. It is an example of how the Maryland curriculum, the National Curriculum, local history, Maryland values and British values are seamlessly interwoven to produce an exceptional example of, in the words of the mayor, **‘education at its best.’**

Have a look at the comments below about the quality of the exhibition.

Graham Plant, Chair of Governors - ‘inspirational’

Annette Gordon - ‘**everyone should see this**’

Cllr.Joy Laguda, MBE - ‘**a very beautiful exhibition**’

Cllr Daniel Lee-Phakoe - ‘**inspiring, thought provoking**’

Doreen Hodges, Mayor’s office - ‘**full of knowledge**’

Winston Vaughan - ‘**extraordinary**’

Rose Thomas (pianist) - ‘amazing and educational’

Moji Omole, DHT, Kensington School - ‘ a must for every adult that works with children. So key as we are part of change for the future’

Barbara Hearn OBE - ‘the art was brilliantly envisioned, so very impressive’

Dawn Butler is aware of the exhibition and is planning to visit on return from Ghana.

